TRACER

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AN ILLINOIS CORPORATION (not for profit)

6422 Main Street, Union, Illinois 60180

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Volume VI - No. 1 Newsletter SUMMER, AUGUST 1979

CURATOR'S LETTER

Let us return to our earlier modus operandi, and begin our Newsletter with our letter from our curator. He welcomes us to meetings, he welcomes visitors to the Museum, so what could be more appropriate than that he also welcomes us to another edition of The Tracer? His co-operation with all the committees has been outstanding, and The Tracer would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you".

"This September marks the completion of my first year as Curator for the McHenry County Historical Society. Looking back over the past year I must characterize it as a very pleasant and rewarding one. The reception given to Donna and me and the cooperation from adjusting to a new location and a new museum.

One person in particular has been instrumental in making this year an educational one. Mrs. Dorothy McEachren has very generously given me background information on the history of the county which has been invaluable to my understanding of the development of McHenry County. The Society is indeed fortunate to have a founder and director who is as dedicated to the cause of historic preservation as Mrs. McEachren.

With the beginning of my second year, I look forward optimistically to the possibilities that we have in working together and the progress that we can make in developing the Museum of McHenry County.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Haggitt
Curator"

COMMENTS ON SUNDAY PROGRAM

Since we were speaking of visitors being welcomed to the Museum, perhaps we may mention some of the programs that have taken place, and some that are to come. Because The Tracer staff has been unable to attend all the Sundays and we do not have reports on everyone, we will only tell you of a few, but be assured that all have been interesting and you will make no mistake in being present at these affairs each Sunday afternoon until the cold weather closes the series.

One of the very successful Sunday afternoon was that of Woodstock in May. Each "Day" finds red stars marking the artifacts that have come from that neighborhood, and that is what Woodstock concentrated on, they had no extra program that we learned of. Among the things high-lighted for the occasion were several pictures in the Music Room--those of Carrie Lawson, costumed for her role in the opera, "Martha"; of Woodstock's male quartet with headlines proclaiming a two-day event at the Opera House, these men being Ben Anderson, Thomas Merwin, Clarence Coonrad and John Fish; and of Valorous Jones playing his violin for his little granddaughter, Dorothy Lemmers. There are rocking chairs, spinning wheels, baby buggies and trophies, used or won by Woodstock people. The big hall itself is named for a Woodstock man, Floyd Eckert. Upstairs there are quilts from Woodstock among the many the Museum has on display; in the school room there is a portrait of Rev. Richard Todd, who lived in Woodstock from 1847 and established the Todd school for Boys, remembered as having educated Orson Welles; there is a slate pencil box and several slates. In the professional room, there is a foot-operated dental drill donated by Elmer Carlson who places the time of use as about 1895; an antique skin scraper donated by Dr. Romberger, and a sign with the name of Dr. Windmueller, who practiced in Woodstock years ago. Many other things, of course were "starred" and the day was well publicized, bringing out a large group from the city it featured.

In June, our Alden directors chose to honor the dairy industry, that being dairy month. They did indeed have a program, exhibiting how home made ice cream was made, how butter was churned, and also how fruits were dried for preservation. Our Alden director, Avis Pankonin, with the superb help of her husband, Herman Pankonin, does a marvelous job on Alden Day each year.

In July, The Harvard directors hired a square dance caller, and the Milk Center Squares donated their time and talent to exhibit the History of Square Dancing to the audience. Mr. Art Grimm from Janesville not only called the dances, but he and Mrs. Grimm demonstrated the steps to the dancers, that, being old, were new to them.

The Greenwood director, Clara Vogel, has kindly sent The Tracer advance notice of what will be on hand for Greenwood Day on September twenty-third. They will have someone showing how to dye fabrics with natural dyes as our great grandmothers did; a gentleman will show the way to use a grinding stone and what can be done with it; there will be a caning exhibition, how to reseat a chair, not how to punish a child or slave. There will also be two things for fun: a spelling bee--they are coming back, you know; and in the music room there will be a real, live fiddler. They had one of the most successful "days" last year in the size of the crowd they drew, and it looks very much as if they will do it again this year. It sounds a most interesting afternoon.

LETTERS - About recipes

A letter from Rachel Ross, with no address, has an excellent suggestion. She sends what she says is a very old recipe and thinks it would be interesting to have others in The Tracer. As she says, some would be too much bother to make, but it would be a touch with the past. The recipe she sent was for tomato soup. It says: Cook tomatoes in good sized pot. Heat them gently, so they do not scorch. When cooked, add a teaspoon of cooking soda. Stir until done foaming. Add milk. As much or more as the amount of fruit. Add fresh butter so that when it melts there is a layer of yellow on the top. Add salt and pepper.

I am sorry, I automatically added a lot of punctuation marks. Miss Ross had copied verbatim. You notice the tomatoes are not pureed, or strained. It is really tomato soup with nothing subtracted.
About a thanks due.

This is from Mark Haggitt and he asks if this Tracer could have a note of thanks for Clara Vogel and Dorothy Northrup for the new "OPEN" sign which hangs on the Museum sign out in front of the Museum. They had it made at Seven Giants Woodworking Shop in Union, and they paid for it. I think a public thank you is nice when directors add such a thoughtful touch. The sign is much appreciated, not only by the society and its members but by the general public.

MORE THANKS

While we are expressing gratitude, we want to give the Historical Society's thanks to those people who furnished the beautiful flower arrangements for the annual meeting in June. The whole front of the stage was banked with blossoms. They were brought by the Misses Alice and Leta Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Pankonin, Mrs. Ramona Martin and Mrs. Clara Vogel.

And it was an odd foible of chance that saw that the lovely handmade stole, raffled at the annual meeting, went to Norma Anderson of Woodstock, the office volunteer, who works every Tuesday from nine to five. It seemed only just that someone who has been so faithful should receive the prize.

It seems that this would be a good place, also, to mention that at a board meeting President Emerita Dorothy McEachren was commended for working up and writing guidelines for each room. These make it much easier for docents to follow.

INFORMATION FROM BOARD MEETINGS

Selecting items that should interest all of you brings to mind one of the duties that can be undertaken, not only by the curator and board members, are the seminars in various spots about the vicinity, and attendance at such museums as are possible, with reports handed on to other members interested. Recently, President Shuji Kimura took part in a Regional Historical Meeting also attended by representatives from Lombard, Des Plaines, Evanston, Wakegan, and so forth. All of the local societies hold general membership meetings once a month. One of the suggestions he brought back was that each member should receive a list of members --at least those from his home town.

It was discussed at board meetings whether to open the log cabin at the County Fair this year and it was decided not to open it since no one was sure of the moving date. So that is the reason it was closed this year.

In June, Curator Mark Haggitt reported that application for landmark status of the Palmer House at Crystal Lake has been deferred as the Crystal Lake Questors, the Chamber of Commerce, are seeking National landmark status for the Wallace, Simons, Walkup, McMillan and Gates houses as well. The hearing on these houses will be held in September.

Also, a definite time for election of officers has been discussed, but nothing changed.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS FOR 1979-1980

At the June board meeting of the McHenry County Historical Society, the following officers were unanimously elected.

President	Shuji Kimura
Vice President	Jack Satorious
2nd Vice President	Henry Marlowe
Secretary	Nancy Fike
Treasurer	Don Hildebrand
Membership Chairman	Leta Clark

All terms are for one year excepting those of secretary and treasurer, whose terms are for three years.

At the same meeting, Ruth Cripe, former treasurer, announced she would have to give up her place as a director due to ill health. The whole board recognized the legitimacy of her resignation but regretted the necessity. She has worked hard and long for the good of the organization.

The nominating committee for the election had been Dorothy McEachren, chairman, Henry Marlowe and Nancy Petzelt.

NEW MEMBERS OF McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SINCE APRIL 1, 1979

Crystal Lake Day
- Jean Lenth
- K. W. Lewis
- Carol Ellinghausen
- M/M John Gray

S. Kimura's Talk
- McHenry County Homemakers
- Greenwood Homemakers
- Chemung Homemakers

A. & L. Clark Conservation Workshop
- Mrs. Lillian Hervert - Woodstock
- M/M James Handke 1 C. L.
- M/M William Wingate - C. L.
- Pleasant Valley Outdoor Center

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Other new members:
- M/N Glenn Anderson Family - Harvard
- Marguerite Baumgaertner - Huntley
- Ron Bykowski Family
- M/M Hugh Deneen Harvard
- Mrs. Vella Ellis - Wdstk
- M/M Craig Grant Family
- Mrs. Omer Haimvaugh - Greenwood
- Melvin O. Johnson - Woodstock
- Georgia Hoveke Family - Huntley
- M/M Donald Pilgrim & Son - Garden Prairie
- Mrs. Mary Sundin - Crystal Lake
- Mrs. Mary Suchy - Cary
- Mathew & Donna Wolf McHenry

Woodstock Day
- Millie (Fish) Luellen

Ruth Cripe Treasurer's Drive
- Alden United Methodist Women
- M/M Dexter Van Hoozen - Alden
- Holy Name Society of SS. Peter & Paul - Cary
- Filtertek, Inc. - Hebron

Harvard
- Badger Marine Hardware
- Howard Rotavator Co., Inc.
- Milk Center Senior Citizens
- Motor Service Co.

McHenry
- First National Bank of McHenry
- Stoffel & Reihansperger

Marengo
- Herman Jurs
- Drs. Alice & Jim Mijanovich
- Dr. Thomas Newell
- Pollock, Meyers, Eicksteadt & Arnold, Ltd.
- Illinois Railway Museum - Union

Woodstock
- Benoy Motor Sales, Inc.
- Kell, Conerty & Poehlmann
- G & H Production Mfg. Inc.
- Harding, M/M Thomas & Family
- Scheinfeld Foundation
- Felt Products Mfg. Co., Skokie

New Members During June and part of July, 1979
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Wright - Rockford
Mr. & Mrs. William Lemke, Jr. & Family
Brian Knight - Ringwood
Jean Hervert - Harvard
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Olbrich - Woodstock
Pitluck, Judge & Mrs. Haskell - Crystal Lake
Karl Mathews - Woodstock - Social Studies
Marian Central
Leroy J. Welter - McHenry
Nancy Marcotte & Family - Wonder Lake
Jan George Hervert - Woodstock
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wagner & Family
Dorothy Schuett - Algonquin
St. Joseph's Social Action Commission - Richmond

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY JUNE 1979

Our membership is growing although we have quite a few who are delinquent in paying their dues. With my sister's assistance we sent out 237 letters to remind people to send in their dues for last year. Many have responded to our notices. We are pleased to report an increase in membership of organizations and business firms.

At present we have the following members:

	Indiv.	Cpl.	Fam.	Organ.	Bus.
Alden	4	3	2	1	
Algonquin	3	1	2	1	
Cary	8	5	6	3	3
Crystal Lake	32	21	1	6	6
Fox River Grove	1	1			
Harvard	25	8	8	7	6
Hebron	5	3	1	2	2
Huntley	13	4	4	2	4
Marengo	34	11	8	3	10
McHenry	16	13	12	5	8
Richmond	8		3	3	2
Ringwood	1	1			1
Solon Mills					
Spring Grove	6				
Union	9	2	5	5	7
Wonder Lake	3	3	1	1	
Woodstock	95	38	21	12	18
Out of County	13	5	3		2
Out of State	14	3	1		
	290	122	78	52	69

Life (included in above-45-lost one this year)
We have a total of:

Singles	290	290
Couples	122	244
Families	78x4	312
Organizations	52	52
Business	69	69
		967

Respectfully submitted,
Leta A. Clark
Membership Secretary

HONOR WHERE IT IS DUE

Earlier issues of The Tracer have honored the docents who help guide school groups through the Historical Museum. From time to time, special mention will be made of those who serve in some special way. At this time the McHenry County Historical Society would like to honor Avis and Herman Pankonin for all the work that they have done. Until this past winter, this faithful couple came to the Museum every Wednesday. Avis worked in the office mounting pictures while Herman was busily engaged with repairing artifacts, putting exhibits on rollers for easier mobility, and various other jobs. Often he took work home to do.

This spring, they haven't come as often, but this is understandable. The Pankonins live at Alden twenty-five miles from the Museum. With the energy shortage, a round trip of fifty miles can not be made too often. Then, too, this couple aren't as young as they used to be. Mr Pankonin has celebrated his 81st birthday.

Both Avis and Herman have served often as docents ever since the Museum opened on July 4th, 1976 when both attended, Avis dressed in colonial costume. Mrs. Pankonin is a member of the board of directors of the Historical Society and Mr. Pankonin attends the meetings with her.

Last year, Avis was chairman of "Alden Day" at the Museum with perhaps the best program of the season. Who can forget the aroma of freshly baked bread and the scrumptious taste of a generous slice spread with freshly churned butter! Avis, herself, was busily engaged in making soap that day.

On July 1st, this year, the Pankonins were in charge of another successful Alden Day. This time visitors sampled homemade ice cream - Herman had helped Avis make two freezers of ice cream to accompany that made by other Aldenites. Then there were warm just-out-of-the-oven pieces of johnny cake made with homeground corn and muffins made from home ground wheat. An interesting feature of the day was an exhibit of home dried fruits and vegetables with its owner there to explain the procedure.

The Historical Society would like to thank the Pankonins for all they have done to make the Museum a success. It wishes that it had many more members like them!

Leta Clark

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT EARLY DAYS IN COUNTY

The questions asked in the Spring Tracer were:

A. Who was the first Superintendent of Schools, then known as the School Commissioner? His name was Carlisle Hastings. He served for three years from 1841 through 1843.

B. Who was the first coroner? Michael C. McGuire, in 1837.

C. The first presidential e ection in which our citizens voted was in 1844. How many votes do you suppose were cast in the county? Polk was elected. There were 1230, with 668 going to Polk, the Demociatic candidate; 488 to Clay, the Whig candidate; and 74 were "other" votes.

We received no answers at all this quarter, so we will dispense with this feature in the future.

YOUR SOCIETY SENDS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONGRESS OF ILLINOIS SOCIETIES

Region I of the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums held its Annual meeting on April 21st at Naperville. The conference was hosted by the Naperville Heritage Society, the Caroline Martin-Mitchell Museum and the Naperville Park District.

The first session was a slide presentation on the Naper Settlement. The Heritage Society was founded when a lovely old church was about to be razed, and interested citizens joined together to save the building which was moved to its present site forming the nucleus of the Naper Settlement. Since then, several old houses dating from the 1840's and 1850's have been added--all from Naperville except the Halfway House which once stood halfway between Naperville and Aurora. Later in the day, guests were taken on a tour of the settlement visiting the one house that has been restored, a log cabin, a smoke house, a stone carver, and the Caroline Mitchell-Martin Museum which stands at the edge of the settlement. The Museum is a twelve room brick mansion built in 1803 and restored to its original appearance. The Museum

is open to the public on Wednesdays and Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30.

The second sessions dealt with the cataloging of collections and the care of artifacts--expecially garments and items made of cloth. It was interesting to note that no gift is accepted without the approval of two persons.

The conference was held at the Meeting House in the Naper Settlement, corner of Porter and Webster Streets. While the main floor is bordered with historical exhibits, it is the basement meeting room that is of outstanding interest. Its walls are adorned with forty beautiful pictures depicting the history of Naperville.

These paintings are the work of a Naperville artist, Lester Schrader a dapper gentleman of eighty years who was on hand to answer questions about his work.

The McHenry County Historical Society was represented by Alice and Leta Clark and Dorothy McEachren.

ANSWERS TO EARLIER PLEAS

In the Winter, 1979 edition Volume V, No. 3, we had a plea for the address of a Mrs. Schultz, the donor of a wedding dress. a christening dress and the slip that went with the christening dress. We are informed that she lives at 194 Wallace Street, Crystal Lake, and while we received this information too late for the last Tracer, we are sure that, by now, she already has a thank you from the society.

Some issues back, we ran a picture of what was quickly identified as the Alden School. One of the teachers was also readily identified as B. F. Manley, later an attorney and postmaster in Harvard. A child or two was identified. Now a copy has been sent on to The Tracer with further identifications, which I think Mrs. Bowdish of Alden made. The picture was taken about ninety years ago, when she would have been ten or twelve years old. The first girl from the left in the back row is identified as Alice Chapman, and in the front row, the second boy from the left, is Ned Andrews. next to him Frank Brewer, - - no, Frank Brewer is the boy in the middle row one place to the right of both Alice Chapman and Ned Andrew. The girl in the white or light colored dress is Edith Snell. There is also a notation that the school is the same building that is now the Alden Township Garage

In the Winter issue of The Tracer, Volume V, No. 3 we asked if anyone could tell us about the picture of the house that was one of our "pleas". It has brought in a tremendous response. It was written up in the 1885 County History as the Terwilliger House, the name of the man who built and owned it at that time. A phone call from Lois Lichty of Woodstock identified it as the "Colonial" Mansion, as did some of those we quoted in the last issue. Marjorie J. Sharp of Woodstock places it on the corner of Mason Hill and Cherry Valley; as did Mr. Ken Eriksen. He called it "the Jefferson house" and gave the present owner's name as Hansen. A clipping of the picture has been sent to The Tracer, with a neatly inked address and owner, 7920 Mason Hill Road, Woodstock, Owner Mrs. James R. Hanrahan, 414 West South Street, Woodstock. One thing very sure is that it is admired by many people.

A BUSY SPRING - 1979

Between May 7th and June 4th - the dates of the first and last visitations this spring - a total of 473 school children visited the Historical Museum. Added to the number of student vistiors of last fall, the total for the past year was 851. Ten different schools were represented. This spring, for the first time, there were visiting classes from Cary, Carpentersville, and Montini Middle School at McHenry. Edgebrook School at McHenry brought groups on two different days with a total of 200 students, the largest number from any one school. Carpentersville and Montini were next with 92 and 80 respectively.

This spring, Alice and Leta Clark participated in the Pioneer Workshop conducted by the McHenry County Conservation District at Indian Ridge. They presented a session on Historical Resources and talked about the McHenry Historical Society and what its Museum had to offer in the way of educational experiences. They closed their program by showing a collection of artifacts asking the audience to guess the purpose of each item.

The Workshop happened at a time that McHenry had temporarily curtailed its field trips because of a gasoline shortage. The following day, calls were received from two Edgebrook teachers who had attended the session requesting that the museum representatives come to their school and give similar talks to their students. This was done, and in two sessions the program was presented to five classes of third grade altering it slightly for their level.

Chuck Hudson, naturalist for MCCD, requested similar talks be given as a part of a field day held by fourth grade classes from Harvard at Kunde's Woods near Marengo. Two sessions were held with the children sitting in the shade of the pines in one section of the Conservation area.

A conservative estimate would indicate that approximately 175 more children learned about the Historical Museum besides the 850 who visited in person.

OUR ADVERTISERS

Again we have a story of one of our new advertisers to lead off. This is the first year that Huntley has been in our advertising columns and we are very pleased that their bank decided to advertise with us.

STATE BANK OF HUNTLEY

It is good that this thriving town has a prosperous and beautiful bank. They had to wait longer than most McHenry county towns for it, not having one established in their town for several decades after the place was founded. Then, probably in the 1890's, Charles E. and E. H. Cook conducted a banking business they called the Farmers Exchange Bank. They sold out to M. D. Hoy & Sons, who founded the Bank of Huntley in May, 1901. The bank prospered and grew, and in March, 1912, a revision established the business as a State Bank with William P. Hoy as the cashier and John M. Hoy as the president. Two other men are listed as officers at that time, A. B. Brinkerhoff being the vice-president and W. F. Bartlett the assistant cashier. Their starting capital was $50,000. In less than ten years their total resources were reported as $518,558.60. A half century later their assets were in the millions and that, along with their sterling reputation, has continued to grow. Now more than three quarters of a century span has passed since the founding of "The Huntley Bank" and it is not only part of the history of that town, but will be for a long time to come.

OBITUARIES

For the first of these we must thank Kendall White of the Elgin Historical Society, who thought we might be interested in this story of a Hebron man who made quite a name for himself in the newspaper business a long way from home.

HOWARD PIERCE

Howard Pierce of Hilo, Hawaii, died in Hilo hospital in May. He was born and grew up on the family's farm in Hebron, Illinois, where he attended school. Later he would attend high school in St. Louis, Missouri, Armstrong College and the University of California at Berkeley, California. He worked on several California newspapers and trade journals, much of the time covering agricultural news. In 1950, he joined the staff of the Hilo Tribune-Herald where he became farm editor and staff reporter. He was a volunteer with the 4-H clubs and in 1962 was the first Neighbor Islander to receive the statewide "Friends of 4-H" award for outstanding

service to the clubs. For years he was noted for his on-the-spot coverage of volcanoes. He was an avid hiker and photographer, a serious student of Hawaiiana. The late Pete Beamer, Sr., was another of his favorite subjects. After retiring from the Tribune, Mr. Pierce served as curator of Lyman House Memorial Museum for several years then edited several of the newspaper's annual editions including the Captain Cook Bicentennial edition. He was a member of many organizations, a charter member of the Big Island Press Club. He is survived by his wife, a retired school teacher and one daughter.

MICHAEL SCOTT

In the winter edition of The Tracer, we carried a 1900 obituary of William Scott, who had died at the age of 103, having lived in three centuries. In June a grandson who had resided in Harvard, died at the age of 77. There was a gap of two years between his grandfather's death and Michael Scott's birth, but it seems almost unbelievable that just two members of a family can span a total of one hundred eighty years in the history of the world.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

At the annual meeting in June, President Shuji Kimura gave a most interesting report of the past year. Since many of you are unable to attend, we persuaded him to furnish The Tracer with a transcript of that report. As we opened the last quarter's paper with the news of the coming meeting, so we will close this one with Mr. Kimura's resume.

To the members and friends of the McHenry County Historical Society:

At the annual meeting of the McHenry County Historical Society on June 10, 1979, I gave a quick bird's eye view of the events that occurred during the year. So that all members and friends of the Society can be aware of these events, I am sending this transcription to Gwen Danner, the editor of The Tracer. If the board approves, in the next issue of The Tracer, I would like to print the annual report of the

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treasurer, and also the complete listing of our members, including organizations and business firms.

(1) The curator. Something that affects most the running of our society and our museum is that in September 1978 we welcomed to our museum a professional curator. Mark Haggitt came to us from Memphis, Tennessee, where he worked in a museum, and where he specialized in Indian artifacts. Mark and his wife Donna and their 3+ dogs live in Crystal Lake. Thanks to the efforts of Mark and the display committee (especially Nancy Petzelt) during the cold winter months, Eckert Hall displays have aquired a new orderliness. Dr. McCluggage of Harvard, a professional historian and president of the Harvard Historical Society, was quite impressed at the change when he came to address the Society, at the annual meeting. Fund raising, publicity, and coordination of all museum activities are his duties, as well as curator, preparing artifacts, arranging, and displaying.

(2) Conversion to Electric Heat. At the advice of Otis Cripe, who had made many runs on winter nights from Coral to check on the boiler, the old b oiler was thrown out, and the whole museum converted to electric heat. Now, unlike with the steam system, each room could be individually temperature controlled or entirely shut off. Cost: $14,000 for the conversion. Work was done by Johnson Electric of Marengo. The initial electric fuel cost was $800 for 54 days (about $450/month) for the coldest months of the year.

(3) Roof and snow. Since the roof over Eckert Hall and the kitchen is flat, Mr. Cripe and Mr. Deneen were quick to sense danger when the New Year's blizzard struck. By installing supports for the roofs through the ceiling with extra-long 2x8 timbers, they averted danger to our building.

(4) Slab for the log cabin. Just before the snows came, the slab to receive the log cabin now at the fairgrounds waspouredin front of the museum. (In front of the kitchen.) The work was done by the Boy Scouts of Woodstock; a personal check to pay for the ready-mix was written by Dorothy McEachren. Plans are being made to cover the entire cabin exhibit with a fibreglass roof, and to display all pioneer artifacts in and around the cabin.

(5) Fred Hatch Memorial. Research and negotiation for memoralizing the Arnold Kattner farm in Spring Grove as the site for the first upright silo in the United States is going on. The American Society of Agricultural Engineers at the University of Illinois (where Fred Hatch was an ag student 1869-73) is interested in joining in on the project.

(6) The 1862 map of McHenry County. This large 5 foot wall map of oil cloth has been restored and stabilized for permanence by the restoration department of the Donnelly Company of Chicago. It is one of the 3 or 4 known to be in existence. The cost was $1,600, of which $1,500 was contributed by the Algonquin Township. Thanks are due to Sandy Walkup for initiating the work with the Donnelly Company.

(7) Photocopier gift. The Township of Nunda, Anita Sherwood, supervisor, was the donor of a 3M photocopier for use in the museum office. The gift is a highly useful gift. It is used every day the office is open. Nunda Township was also the donor of $1,000 toward the cost of converting the museum to electric heat.

(8) Repayment of the $20,000 Loan. During this year, the board of directors voted to begin paying back to Dorothy McEachren the $20,000 of her personal funds she loaned to the Society to purchase the Union schoolhouse and the grounds from the Union school board back in March, 1972. We are paying at the rate of $300 a month.

(9) Special Sunday events at the museum. Under the chairmanship of Nancy Fike, our vice-president, we have had many special and memorable Sunday events to make history alive to members and visitors to the museum. Among others:

Union Day: Hiawatha Indian Dancers

Alden Day: The Pankonins showing pioneer crafts.

Hebron Day: Alice and Frances Bailey showing family heirlooms.

Greenwood Day: Apple Doll making, candle molding, weaving, crocheting, all done by young people dressed in pioneer day clothes.

Woodstock Day: McCormick Family singers and dancers, over 100 Woodstockers attending.

Crystal Lake Day: Cider pressing demonstration and drinking.

Huntley Day: Sheep-shearing demonstration, Dean Milk products display, Dean Milk wagon display, Huntley Congregational Bell Ringers, 4H Club Skit--filling the large stage with 4H kids.

And the Harvard directors furnished three programs - an old time washing, a day when Nynah Pulley demonstrated making apple dolls, and one Sunday John Molthen of Harvard demonstrated old and new fashioned flower arrangements.

Much credit is due Alice Clarke for her tireless efforts in building up a group of docents (guides) for explaining our exhibits in 5 different rooms to our visitors, as well as shepherding hundreds of schoolchildren from the county during the year.

(10) Special events in Crystal Lake and Marengo. In cooperation with the McHenry County College humanities department special studies program on history, a photographic slide program on historic houses of Crystal Lake and vicinity was presented at the Central School auditorium, April 29, 1979. Some 200 Crystal Lake residents saw a double screen presentation of houses shown in the atlasses of 1862 and 1872 and as they are today. Thanks are due Principal John Hussman and to Superintendent Bob Blazier for their cooperation, and to the members of the Polly Crandal chapter of the Questers, co-hosts for the reception following.

Three weeks later in Marengo, some 400 to 500 people had the privilege of visiting 5 historic houses in this historic town: Muzzy, Dawes, Westergren, Robinson, and Piper houses. The event was co-sponsored by the Marengo police staff and by the McHenry County Historical Society. More than $2,000 was raised by ticket sales to benefit the Marengo police fund and the Historical Society. It was such a success that all the participants want to have another historic tour next year.

(11) RTA buses will bring visitors to Union Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. Included in the route are the Railroad Museum, the 7 Acre Museum, and our County Museum.

(12) The Tracer Our quarterly publication for our members and friends has been responsible for more members and more friends. Many thanks are due Gwen Danner for her editorialship and to Trixie Mulvenna for her devoted assistance.

(13) In the area of human contributions to the running of our Society, we want to thank Norma Anderson of Woodstock for giving an entire day every Tuesday for office work, and to thank Henry Herrera, a Marengo High School student from Ceta, for doing much of the physical work that needs doing around the museum.

In the next issue of the Tracer, we hope to give you further reports, one on the finances of the Society, and another on the membership of the Society. Both are the "nitty gritty", or the "bottom line" reports on the true status of the Society.

Shuji Kimura, President

ANSWER TO QUERIES MADE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Several inquiries have been made to the Board of Directors as to why the Civil War Soldiers Monument given by the Greenwood Cemetery had not been erected either inside or outside of the Museum. First of all, it was in bad condition as the statue is made of an alloy that is very difficult to work with. It was taken to a professional welder in McHenry. He went over it thoroughly and said it could not be repaired, as the alloy would not permit welding to seal the cracks and other damage. While it lay outside the Museum, the arms of the Madonna were further damaged. When this criticism came before the board, it was decided we should put an explanation in The Tracer. It was regretted that an explanation had not been offered earlier.

It has been suggested that possibly the panel containing the names could be removed and erected in the Museum Mr. Meuser, owner of the garage across the street from the Museum, came to look at it, and he believes he could melt the panels off but at this writing he has not yet been able to get to it. We are very sorry it could not be salvaged as we had envisioned it standing next to the flag pole at the corner of the Museum.

This information has been given to The Tracer by our Past President, Dorothy McEachren.

EARLY FACTORIES IN McHENRY COUNTY

A century ago, almost every town and township had mills, grist mills, flour mills and saw mills. In Algonquin the first saw mill was built in 1839 about three-quarters of a mile from the lake on the Crystal Lake outlet. Another was built in 1840 on Chunn Creek and a third in 1842 at Algonquin Village. In 1848 a grist mill was erected, also on the outlet of Crystal Lake, on the Cornish farm. By 1877, the saw mills were gone. but the grist mills were flourishing. Alden did not have, according to the 1877 Directory, a mill until 1873 when a man named Thompson built a steam mill for grinding feed.

In Chemung township, between 1840 and 45, there was first a saw mill which became a flour mill also, and then in 1853, the stone mill was built, all these at Chemung. In Harvard, a Mr. Wood built a steam flouring mill in 1865. (This building still stands.) Coral had a steam mill for grinding feed connected with the cheese factory and creamery built in 1874. In Woodstock, a building was moved from Brookdale to be used as a flax mill but was not successful and was turned into a planing mill. Mills were not a paying proposition in that town, the saw mill lasting only four years and the grist mill two. In 1877, only the Phoenix mill still ran, and it was three years old.

Dunham had no mill of any kind and Grafton only a flax mill. Greenwood, on the other hand, as early as 1841, had a saw mill, and in 1845 another was built about a mile below the first. In 1845, a grist mill was built which burned in 1862. A grist mill erected in 1847 was still doing business thirty years later. Hebron had no mills, and Hartland only a saw mill at Brookdale, rotted away by 1877. Marengo, at that time, had a steam flour mill, while McHenry had two and a planing mill. Nunda had a saw mill from 1845 until 1863 when it was converted to a grist mill. Richmond had the first flour mill in the county, in 1840, and before that a saw mill. Solon, too, had a flouring mill in 1840, said to have been the first grist mill in the county. By the time of the publication of the 1877 Directory, a mill at Richmond, built in 1844, had changed hands several times, always growing and expanding and was said to be worth $20,000. Riley had no mill, but Seneca had a saw mill, erected in the late 1830s. It did not continue but George Smith & Son put up both a flour and a saw mill on the Kishwaukee, which in 1877 was still doing business and which still stood in the first quarter of this century.

These were the mills of the county in the early days. Almost every town had a creamery and cheese factory, and there were a few other factories about which we will tell you in another issue.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
We would like to express our sincere appreciation to
McHenry County Historical Society
Who has helped to make our Mini-Course Program a huge success
Thank You
The Lundahl Junior High Staff

WE JUST WANTED TO SHARE THIS WITH ALL OF YOU.

This is our only plea this time. Can anyone tell us not only where this building is, or was, but also what it is -- or was?

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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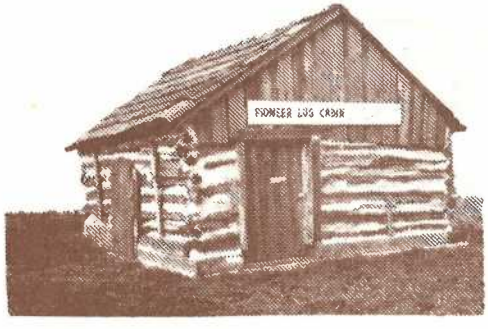

IF YOUR ADDRESS IS INCORRECT,
WON'T YOU MAIL US A CARD?